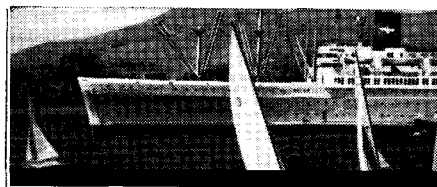


Winds

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, has just brought out what might well be the heaviest paperbound edition offered in this soaring market. The edition includes the first three volumes of Arnold J. Toynbee's "A Study of History."

A cartoon illustration of Uncle Sam, wearing his iconic top hat with stars and stripes and a bow tie. He is holding an open book in his right hand, looking down at it with a slight smile. The drawing is in a simple, line-art style.

"It all started," Mr. Williams told us, "when I tried to do a preface for a collection of my plays. Prefaces are something I've always dreaded, but the first thing you know I was beginning to enjoy doing one. What's more strange is that I've never been keen about delving into the past. I plunged ahead anyway, and before I knew it, I had far



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too many words on paper, and I had to cut about a third of them."

Cutting is an old story to Mr. Williams, who charges himself five cents a word in his plays if he finds them superfluous. All of his plays, which include "The Corn Is Green" and "Night Must Fall," show a sharp, lucid economy of words.

"In revising 'George,'" Mr. Williams went on, "I constantly found I was using a lot of pet phrases that almost jumped off the page and bit me. There's nothing worse than a pet phrase that keeps echoing itself throughout a manuscript. I think it's a form of egotism, an attempt to be smug, in a way. I found I had written 'not unpleasant' many times. I winced at the number of

'oddly enoughs' I had used. Or things like 'a little disconcerting.' They were all symptoms that made it clear I was trying to show off. I even found I was using the word 'gravid,' instead of ripe, or full, which are much cleaner, straightforward words."

"George" was originally scheduled by Random House for November, 1961, then was postponed until February of this year, and now again put off in honor of the Book-of-the-Month choice.

"This is the most pleasant kind of procrastination I can think of," said Mr. Williams.

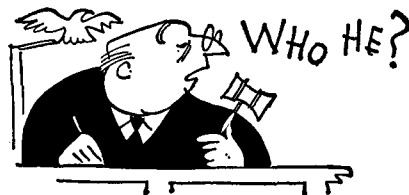
While he's waiting, he'll spend some time in the Bahamas, and think over his next project, which is unannounced. His plays continue in constant circula-

tion, and he's just received word from his twenty-three-year old son that he's been hired to play the same part in "The Corn Is Green" for a South African production this winter.

"There was only one catch," Mr. Williams said. "The manager of the company mentioned to my son that the reason he couldn't pay higher wages was because the author was charging such a stiff royalty!"

ART BUCHWALD, who has been a European columnist for American papers for more than a decade and whose latest book is characteristically titled "How Much Is That In Dollars?" (World), recently brought his family to the U.S. for the first time. His eight-year-old son, Joel, is fascinated by, of all things, TV commercials. The other day Joel ran to tell his mother that they were showing how to clean a muddy floor, take stubborn spots out of things, wash a greasy pan, etc., and she'd better come and watch. The reason: French TV has no commercials.

A STORY IS making the rounds these days about some scientists who designed an English-to-Russian translating machine. To test the device, they fed it the sentence "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Back came the translation: "The liquor is good but the food is lousy."



DOWN IN PHILADELPHIA, one of the many court cases involves Grove Press's edition of Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" was taking place, and the name of Thoreau was brought up in the testimony.

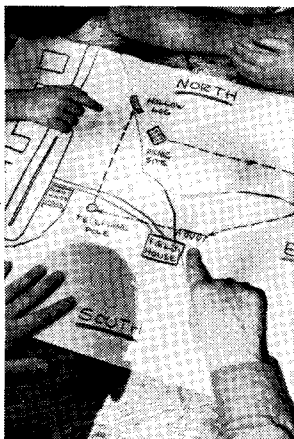
"Pardon me," said the judge from the bench, "but how do you spell that?"

—JOHN G. FULLER.

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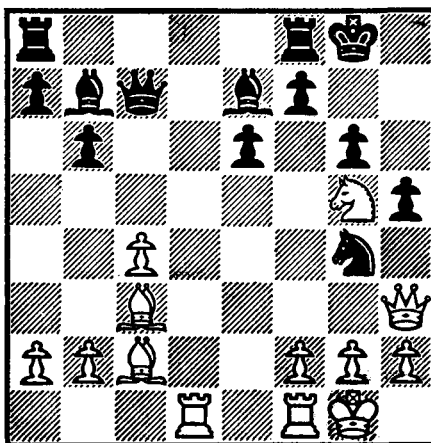
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Chess Corner—No. 66

ALIBIS for losing a chess game are so common that the wily British master Burn once proclaimed, "I never beat a healthy man." Be that as it may, a new one has been added which for sheer force relegates all the rest to limbo. "I am in love," said Lisa Lane, American women's champion, as she lost two and defaulted the rest of the games in the reserve tournament of the Hastings Christmas Congress. This simple statement suggests something about the approach of the genders to the playing of chess. The male ordinarily relies on icy logic; the female, on the other hand, is inclined to be governed by emotion. Of all lady chess players, only one stands out as having played a man-sized game. She is the late Vera Menchik Stephenson, after whom the mythical Menchik Club was named. This organization boasts a membership of grand masters whom she defeated, among whom are included the giants of chessdom, such as ex-world champion Euwe and Sammy Reshevsky. Vera Menchik Stephenson was killed by a buzz bomb in London during the last war. Below is a dramatic illustration of her style.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT		DECLINED	
Vera Menchik		Sonya Graf	
White		Black	
1 P-QB4	P-K3	11 B-B2	P-B4
2 N-QB3	P-Q4	12 PxP	Q-R4
3 P-Q4	N-KB3	13 B-K3	BxP
4 N-B3	QN-Q2	14 B-Q2	Q-B2
5 P-K3	P-B3	15 B-B3	B-K2
6 B-Q3	B-K2	16 Q-K2	P-QN3
7 O-O	O-O	17 N-N5!	P-N3
8 P-K4	PxKP	18 Q-B3	B-N2
9 NxP	NxN	19 Q-R3	P-KR4
10 BxN	N-B3	20 QR-Q1	N-N5



The game has been played reasonably well up to this point even by male standards, with Black making no blatant blunders. But surprisingly, it is over.

21 R-Q7! Resigns

If 21 . . . QxR 22 QxP forces checkmate. If Queen doesn't capture Rook, Black wins a piece.

—AL HOROWITZ.

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